

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 029463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: ILO - PHILIPPINE CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY OF 1975

INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: MANILA 1634

FYI 1. ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOR CONFERENCE IS NORMALLY A SMOOTHLY RIGGED OPERATION IN
WHICH THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION WHOSE TURN IT IS TO HOLD THE
OFFICE CAUCUSES AND SELECT A SINGLE CANDIDATE WHO IS
ELECTED IN A WELL-ORCHESTRATED, TRADITIONAL ROUTINE CON-
SISTING OF A NOMINATION SPEECH, SECONDED FROM GOVERNMENT,
WORKER AND EMPLOYER BENCHES, ENDING IN ACCLAMATION RATHER
THAN A VOTE. WE EXPECT THAT THIS PATTERN WILL BE FOLLOWED
IN 1975, WHICH IS ASIA'S YEAR TO HOLD THE OFFICE.

2. THE UNITED STATES NORMALLY SUPPORTS THE GEOGRAPHIC
CAUCUS'S CHOICE, WHICH SIMPLY MEANS THAT WE TAKE NO PART IN
THE PROCEEDINGS, AND MAKE NO STATEMENT DURING THE ELECTION
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RITUAL. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE ANYTHING

IN THE 1975 ELECTION THAT WOULD REQUIRE US TO DEPART FROM THIS PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR.

3. THUS, IF THE ASIAN CAUCUS SELECTS OPLE, OR ANY OTHER PHILIPPINE CANDIDATE, HE WILL BE A "SHOO IN," THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT HIM PASSIVELY, AND NOTHING WILL HAPPEN

THAT WILL CAUSE HIM TO BE TABBED AS A "LITTLE BROWN BROTHER OF THE AMERICANS."

4. PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IS AN OFFICE THAT IS LIMITED TO THE PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE--ABOUT THREE WEEKS--PLUS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE VERBATIM RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS, END FYI

5. EMBASSY MAY INFORM PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THAT, SHOULD OPLE RECEIVE THE SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN CAUCUS OF THE ILO, HE WILL HAVE US SUPPORT. KISSINGER

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